(b) the total length of the highway proposed to be upgraded and number and names of bridges proposed to be constructed on it;

(c) the total cost of the project; and

(d) the details of nature of tender procedure proposed to be adopted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) The pre-qualification of bidders has been completed and bids will be invited after obtaining clearance from Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) for which proposal has already been submitted.

(b) The total length of the project is 122.87 Km. Five major bridges, 22 minor bridges, 2 ROBs are proposed including a new bridge on Zuari river, New bridges on Talpona and Galzibag river and new bridge on Siridao river.

(c) The cost of the project is Rs. 2078.00 crore.

(d) Under the procedure, bids are invited from pre-qualified bidders. For this project 5 bidders have been pre-qualified and are eligible to bid.

Toll payable NHs

1311. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of toll payable National Highways in use at present;

(b) the total length of highways on which toll collection facility is available;

(c) the length of highway on which toll collection facility has not commenced;

(d) the loss caused on account of delay in making facility available; and

(e) the details of the plan, if any, Government has chalked out for collecting the tolls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) The user fee/toll tax is being collected at 129 plazas on specific sections of 26 national highways, as on 31.03.2009.

(b) The toll is being collected at 6434 km of fully completed road section, as on 31.03.2009.

(c) to (e) 3476.31 kms of length of National Highways has been completed only partially in stretches and hence is not under tolling. Completion of tollable section in all respect including safety measures like lane marking, signages, guard rails etc. and issue of 'takeover' certificate are the pre-requisite for commencement of tolling within 30 days from the date of completion of tollable section or issue of takeover certificate, whichever is later. The details of measures taken by the Government to ensure early completion of tollable stretches which will enable early collection of tolls are given in the Statement.

Statement

Measures taken by the Government for early completion of Tollable Stretches of National Highways

(a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultant, Project Directors, Senior officers of NHAI. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHAI, Secretary, Department of Road Transport & Highways.

(b) State Governments have appointed Senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the NHDP such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.

(c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of ROBs.

(d) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has been simplified. Earlier all the notification under NH Act were vetted by the Ministry of Law. Recently, an amendment has been made in the Allocation of Business Rules by which these notifications are not required to be sent to the Ministry of Law. The Ministry of Law has approved the standard formats of various notifications keeping in view the similar nature of the notifications of Land Acquisition.

(e) To expedite the construction of ROBs an officer of the Railways has been posted to NHAI to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. MOU has also been signed with M/s. IRCON for construction of some of the ROBs.

(f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.

(g) Terminated contracts have been re-awarded by the NHAI.

Fresh eligibility conditions for developers/contractors

1312. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced fresh regulations and eligibility conditions for Indian developers/contractors;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) whether Government has also exempted the limit in the number of bidders per project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such a move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir.